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## Poll question

This week's question: How useful do you think the newly launched [CSI indicator database](#) will be for your work and research on civil society?

- a. Very useful
- b. Somewhat useful
- c. Not useful at all

To answer the question, [click here](#)

Previous question: What is the greatest potential risk of transparency for CSOs?

- a. Loss of competitive advantage
- b. Loss of funding
- c. Political harassment
- d. Loss of credibility/legitimacy
- e. Other
- f. Transparency has only positive consequences

Results: a. - 10.7%, b. - 3.6%, c. - 17.9%, d. - 14.3%, e. - 0%, f. - 53.6%

## Get involved

**UN survey on the impact of the global crises on civil society organisations and their constituencies**

Source: *UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs*

The Civil Society and Outreach Unit of the United Nations Secretariat's Division for Social Policy and Development invites your organisation to take part in a survey on the current situation that local, national and international civil society organisations (CSOs) are facing as a result of the global economic and environmental crises. For details, [click here](#).

## We Welcome Contributions

e-CIVICUS is a useful channel through which you and your organisation can share your news, publicise your events and articulate the issues you face. Please send us your contributions by Monday for publication in the coming week to [editor@civicus.org](mailto:editor@civicus.org). To read the contribution guidelines, [click here](#).

## From the Desk of the Secretary General

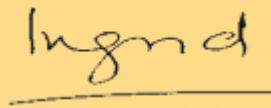
### Hear from the CIVICUS Board

From this week's issue of e-CIVICUS, we are introducing a new column - 'Hear from the CIVICUS Board'. This column will feature contributions from the CIVICUS Board members, who will write about issues pertaining to CIVICUS and civil society. This week we start with an article by Anabel Cruz, the Chair of the CIVICUS Board.

We felt that there was a need to bring forward interaction with our Board to the wider community that reads e-CIVICUS and/or visits the CIVICUS website. We hope you will find the new column to be useful.

Do continue to send your feedback to [editor\(at\)civicus.org](mailto:editor(at)civicus.org)

With faith, gratitude and solidarity,



### Press Release: Launch of CIVICUS CSI Indicator Database (Phase 2003-2006)

CIVICUS: World Alliance for Citizen Participation has launched its Civil Society Index (CSI) Indicator Database for the Phase 2003-2006. The CSI implementation phase from 2003 to 2006 covered over 50 countries and 7000 stakeholders worldwide. It is arguably the most encompassing picture of civil society ever produced. For details, [click here](#).

To commemorate this milestone, CIVICUS and the CSI programme are pleased to announce an essay contest and call for papers based on this newly launched database. For more information on how to apply, [click here](#).

Please visit <http://civicus.org/csi-phase1/index.php> to access the database

## Hear from the CIVICUS board

### Aid milestones ...or promises not fulfilled?

Some days ago, on September 16, I had the privilege to represent CIVICUS in an international seminar in Montevideo, convened by the Uruguayan government and the UNDP, to discuss the challenges posed to developing countries by international cooperation, including the new aid architecture and aid effectiveness. I was asked to talk about aid effectiveness, especially the process after the Paris Declaration and the implementation of the Accra Agenda for Action. It was necessary to mention in my presentation that the Uruguayan government has still not signed the Paris Declaration on Aid effectiveness, and there was no answer to the question why this has not happened. Not even the government officials attending (and organising) the event could answer the question... [Read more](#).

**Anabel Cruz**  
CIVICUS Board Chair

## News in brief

### TckTckTck Campaign: An Interview with Kumi Naidoo

Source: *Treehugger*

We are definitely making progress on getting governments and the public to know, and care about, climate change. Since the TckTckTck campaign launched, we've registered over a million pledges and it's growing at a terrific rate. When you look at our list of partner organisations, e.g. Oxfam, Greenpeace and Avaaz, one of the exciting things is that this campaign is not just supported by the usual suspects; we also have groups such as The World Council of Churches on board. Nonetheless, we recognise that we need to do more if we are to get global leaders to sit up and take notice, to commit to attending Copenhagen and to secure a fair, ambitious and binding deal. Governments already recognise the importance of action on climate change but will only commit to action if the public demonstrate that it is a priority for them. For details, [click here](#).

### Uphold rule of law and impartiality in the case of Kazakh human rights defender Yevgeny Zhovtis: Executive Summary

Source: *International Committee for Observation of the Law*

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## Events

### **IAWS Southern Regional Workshop** 12-13 October 2009, Mangalore, India

Southern Regional Workshop organised by the Indian Association for Women's Studies (IAWS) and the Centre for Women's Studies, University of Mysore, Mysore in collaboration with the PG Department of Social Work, School of Social Work Roshni Nilaya, Mangalore For details, [click here](#).

### **Social Media for NGOs Conference** 15-16 October 2009 (Johannesburg), 20-21 October 2009 (Cape Town)

The annual SANGONeT "ICTs for Civil Society" Conference is the premier ICT event dedicated to the work of the NGO sector in Southern Africa. For details, [click here](#).

### **2009 European Pro Bono Forum** 5-6 November 2009, Budapest, Hungary

The Public Interest Law Institute (PILI) is pleased to announce that registration is now open for the 2009 European Pro Bono Forum, which will be hosted in Budapest on 5-6 November. Now in its third year, the Forum provides a dynamic multi-national platform for information exchange, skills transfer, and networking related to pro bono activity in Europe. For details, [click here](#).

## Book Reviews

### **Challenges ahead on Burma's Road to ICC** Source: Amazon.com

Burma, a beautiful country of peaceful people in South East Asia, has been ruled by military and authoritarian regimes since more than half a century ago. Now there are suggestions that the International Criminal Court should indict Burma's brutal military rulers for the crimes against humanity they have been committing on their own people since so many decades ago. But it is easier said than done. Burma is not a signatory of the Rome statute of the ICC, and Burma's dictators may just ignore any indictment by the ICC. For details, [click here](#).

For more book reviews, [click here](#)

## Letters to the Editor

Congratulations for having such a law that protects the rights of lesbians and homosexuals (broadly SOGI) and the rights of women in cases of abortion. It is very natural that such laws will face strong resistance from a traditional mind-set and proponents of customary laws, who historically repress women in both public and in private lives. Most often the patriarchs of customary code/laws generate public opinion, even amongst women, to oppose such progressive laws. The state and its various law implementing agencies in such cases tend to save their skin from the brunt of being less popular in the society... [read more](#).

Regards,

**Gauri Arvind Bhopatkar**  
India

**Find Us**

On 3 September 2009 the judge of the Balkhash regional court in Kazakhstan found Yevgeny Zhovtis guilty of a crime punishable under the Article 296 of Kazakhstan's Criminal Code (violation of traffic rules by the driver of the vehicle resulting in an accidental death) and sentenced the defendant to 4 years in a settlement colony. For details, [click here](#).

### **WACC calls for stronger and more active peace-building media**

Source: WACC

Communication can help overcome the inequalities and injustices that give rise to conflict and violence. WACC believes that mass and community media have the potential to promote genuine dialogue to transform conflict and build a culture of peace, and that every effort should be made to strengthen their capacity to do so. For details, [click here](#).

### **Faith and Development Leaders Meeting: Meeting Highlights**

Over 1 and 2 July 2009, 85 development and faith leaders from 28 countries met in Accra, Ghana to take stock of the common ground and goals of religious and development organisations on fighting poverty. A smaller meeting on 3 July focused on health. For details, [click here](#).

### **8th World Young Reader Conference**

Source: World Association of Newspapers

The 8th World Young Reader Conference focused on the cost-effective practical solutions newspapers need when more and more must be done with less and less. Sessions concentrated on a full range of the very newest strategies to successfully connect with the young on multiple platforms, allowing newspapers to cut through the maze of messages young people receive with the most authentic voice of all. For details, [click here](#).

### **UNCTAD calls for overhaul of global monetary and financial system**

Source: Any Pursuit

The report released by United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) has held the predominance of excessively deregulated purely financial activities over real productive activities as responsible for the current global financial and economic crisis. It says that this crisis "was not a bolt from the blue", it was predictable. For details, [click here](#).

### **Federal court says US states may sue utilities over GHGs**

Source: Climate Progress

A US federal appeals court ruled that states trying to combat global warming can sue six electric utilities to force them to cut the greenhouse gases emitted by their power plants in 20 US states. For details, [click here](#).

### **Multiple Discrimination: Call for submissions**

Deadline: 15 October 2009

The European Roma Rights Centre (ERRC) is looking for original articles and other submissions (book reviews, interview with key figures and conference reports) from a broad range of disciplines addressing the issue of discrimination that Romani individuals, groups and communities face on multiple grounds. For details, [click here](#).

### **John Smith Fellowship Programme 2010**

Deadline: 09 November 2009

The John Smith Memorial Trust is currently seeking applications from potential candidates for its 2010 Fellowship Programme, to take place over five weeks in June/July next year. The aim of our Fellowship is to enable exceptional individuals to study political, judicial, constitutional and other relative institutions and procedures in the United Kingdom and to share experiences of their own institutions with their peers and with British hosts and experts. For details, [click here](#).



### **Are you one of the missing 85?**

One CIVICUS member for every UN member state, that's the goal of CIVICUS' 1 for 1 Membership campaign. [Click here](#).

## **CIVICUS Member profile**

### **Disabled Peoples' International (DPI)**

Disabled Peoples' International (DPI) is a network of national organisations or assemblies of persons with disabilities, established in Winnipeg, Canada, in 1981 to promote the human rights of persons with disabilities through full participation, equalisation of opportunity and outcome, development and international co-operation. DPI was the first successful effort for persons with disabilities to create an internationally united voice and the first international disability organisation to officially call itself a human rights organisation. DPI played a key role in the drafting and negotiation for the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and continues to promote ratification and implementation of this historic treaty. DPI enjoys special consultative status with UN ECOSOC and collaborates with major international agencies and organisations on issues relating to disability. DPI believes that persons with disabilities should participate directly in dialogue and decision-making processes that affect the lives of persons with disabilities - "Nothing about us, without us!" The Last Civil Rights Movement, published by Hurst & Company and St. Martin's Press in 1989, is a history of the early years of DPI. For more information, please visit [www.dpi.org](http://www.dpi.org).

**Resources**

**Protecting people, promoting jobs: From crisis response to recovery and sustainable growth**



Become a CIVICUS Facebook fan and get updates on our activities in your news feed!



Check out our video channel:  
<http://www.youtube.com/user/civicusworldalliance>

## Appointments

This week, new civil society job openings have been added to the CIVICUS website. Please [click here](#). Should you wish to publish a New Vacancy, please click on [Add job](#). Please add an expiry date for applications.

### Global Coordinator - Civil Society Education Application Deadline: 5 October 2009

Global Campaign for Education  
Location: Johannesburg, South Africa  
For details, [click here](#).

### Program Manager, Civil Society Application Deadline: 09 October 2009

Institute for Sustainable Communities  
Location: Washington, D.C.  
For details, [click here](#).

### Regional Director for Africa and the Middle East Application Deadline: 15 October 2009

World YWCA  
Location: Geneva, Switzerland  
For details, [click here](#).

### Civil Society Advisory Committee Member Application Deadline: 30 November 2009

Commonwealth Foundation  
Location: International  
For details, [click here](#).

Source: International Labour Organisation (ILO)

At the London Summit of 2 April 2009 leaders pledged: "...our global plan for recovery must have at its heart the needs and jobs of hard-working families... we have therefore pledged to do whatever is necessary to restore confidence, growth and jobs..." in order to "...build an inclusive, green and sustainable recovery". For details, [click here](#).

### Communities have climate answers

Source: Christian Aid

Poor communities are not just victims of climate change, they are also pioneers in the race to adapt to increasingly harsh weather patterns and to achieve low-carbon development. A new report, Community Answers to Climate Chaos, calls for civil society and local responses to be handed a greater role, and for rich countries to support them via a new global climate change fund. Christian Aid presents an approach which would radically change the way in which the UNFCCC mechanisms work, and will deliver responses to climate change that have poor people and vulnerable communities at their heart. For details, [click here](#).

### 10 Principles of Good Practice for the Intelligent Funder

Donors today recognise civil society as a crucial partner and resource in progressing human development goals. For civil society, the relationship with its donors is a key issue, and much remains to be done on both sides to advance understanding and collaboration. The CIVICUS network, through the CIVICUS World Assemblies (WA), has provided a forum for donors and civil society stakeholders to discuss their relationship and how together they can face today's major crises effectively and intelligently. For details, [click here](#).

### "It's Our Money. Where's It Gone?"

Source: International Budget Partnership (IBP)

IBP have just released "It's Our Money. Where's It Gone?", a documentary film about the work that one of their partner organisations is doing in Kenya to use social audits to involve communities in monitoring how Constituency Development Fund money is used, or misused. For details, [click here](#).

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